

GREGORY, George

Report laid before the General Court of Governors of the Small Pox and Vaccination Hospital, King's Cross, London.  
1846

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REPORT

LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL COURT OF GOVERNORS



OF THE

SMALL POX AND VACCINATION  
HOSPITAL,

King's Cross, London,

HELD ON THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY, 1846.

BY

GEORGE GREGORY, M.D.

Physician to the Hospital.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY T. BRETTELL, RUPERT STREET, HAYMARKET.

1846.

At a General Court of Governors of the SMALL POX  
AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL, held at the Hospital on  
Friday, February 6, 1846,

R. SPENCER, Esq., IN THE CHAIR,

It was Resolved,

*“ That DR. GREGORY’S REPORT now read be received  
and entered on the minutes ; and that the same  
be printed and circulated among the Gover-  
nors.”*

JAMES CLIFT,

*Secretary.*

# REPORT

OF

## THE PHYSICIAN OF THE SMALL POX AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL,

*FEBRUARY 6, 1846.*

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TO THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS, TREASURER, AND  
GOVERNORS OF THE SMALL POX AND VACCINATION  
HOSPITAL.

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MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The continued prevalence of Small Pox in all parts of this country, notwithstanding the entire abolition of Inoculation, notwithstanding the most unremitting efforts of the Government to encourage the practice of Vaccination—(efforts which already involve the annual expenditure of nearly £.23,000 in England and Ireland\*)—aided as they are by the benevolent

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* Amount paid to Vaccinators in England for the year ending 25th March, 1845 . . . . .	£.	s.	d.
Ditto in Wales . . . . .	15,861	0	0
Outlay for Register and Certificate Books . . . . .	833	0	0
Annual Grant to the National Vaccine Establishment . . . . .	286	0	0
	1,850	0	0
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Total for England and Wales . . . . .	£.18,830	0	0
Vaccination expenses in Ireland for the half-year ending 25th March, 1844 . . . . .	2,329	0	2
Ditto for the half-year ending 29th September, 1844 . . . . .	1,754	17	7
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Total for England and Ireland . . . . .	£.22,913	17	9

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exertions of *this* and other charities especially devoted to the encouragement of Vaccination—is a fact of such vast importance to the community generally, and so pregnant with interest to all who study the character and course of epidemic visitations, that your Physician considers it his duty to present annually to the Governors of this Hospital an abstract of the proceedings which take place there under the observation of the Medical Officers. Statistical researches of this kind, carefully and impartially made, possess undoubtedly considerable value. Their importance has long been acknowledged on the Continent, and in this country their popularity is rapidly extending.

The total number of patients admitted into the Hospital during the year 1845 was 384. Of these 367 had Small Pox; and 17 had either Measles, Chicken Pox, or some other light form of eruptive disorder.

Of the 367 patients admitted with Small Pox, 150 had never been subjected to Vaccination; 217 had been Vaccinated, for the most part in early life, and all with that apparent success which the existence of cicatrices on the arms betokens. The total mortality was 79. Of the 150 not Vaccinated, there died 66; being at the rate of 44 per cent. Of the 217 vaccinated cases, 13 died; being at the rate of only 6 per cent.

Small Pox was epidemic in London during the early part of 1845, as the following table of admissions into the Hospital will testify :—

Admissions from January 1, 1845 to April 30.....	235
———— from May 1 to August 31.....	96
———— from September 1 to December 31 .....	53
	<hr/> 384

The epidemic began in April 1844, and ceased towards the close of May 1845. Counting from the 1st of May 1844 to the 30th of April 1845 (during the whole of which period



Small Pox was epidemic in London) the admissions into the Small Pox Hospital of patients actually suffering under Small Pox in some one of its forms was 759. Of these, 360 were unvaccinated; 399 (considerably more than one half) had been vaccinated in early life. The deaths during these twelve months were 182, or 24 per cent. Of the 360 unvaccinated persons there died 151, or 40 in each hundred. Of the 399 vaccinated persons there died 31, being at the rate of 8 out of each hundred.

The increasing numbers admitted after Vaccination admit of an easy explanation from the more extensive diffusion of Vaccination throughout the country. It is obvious that, if Parliament were to enforce a system of compulsory Vaccination, the result would be that in a few years the *total* admissions would be of vaccinated persons.

Small Pox, as it occurs after Vaccination, does not appear to be increasing in severity. During epidemic visitations, and from particular causes, the mortality by it sometimes rises as high as 10 per cent.; but under common circumstances it does not exceed 6 per cent, a very low rate, being about the estimated mortality of measles. The more serious consideration is, that this mortality falls almost exclusively upon adults in the prime of life. Of the 37 vaccinated persons who have died of Small Pox in this Hospital in the years 1844--5, there were—

Under the age of 20.....	7
Between the ages of 20 and 30 ....	26
Above the age of 30.....	4
	<hr/>
	37

Small Pox, as it appears at the present time among the unvaccinated, abates nothing of that malignity which it was wont to exhibit in former ages, and which rendered it an object of such terror to our ancestors.

The value of this Hospital to the community at large,

affording, as it does, an asylum to all poor persons on the approach of so formidable a disease, and removing from the crowded courts of London so many dangerous sources of contagion, must be at once apparent. It is earnestly to be hoped that the facts now stated will induce the benevolent part of the public to come forward and support this Hospital with the same zeal which was displayed during the latter half of the preceding century.

One hundred years have elapsed since an enlightened humanity first set on foot this noble monument of metropolitan charity. In 1746 the first meeting of the Governors of the Small Pox Hospital took place. Your Physician, from a careful comparison of admissions and recoveries, in past and present times, asserts with confidence that the necessity of this establishment is at least as great now as when the charitable founders of the Hospital first associated themselves together to check, as far as they could, the diffusion of this pestilence, and to administer to the relief of those who had the misfortune to fall under its influence.

In the department of the Hospital devoted to Vaccination, the labours of your Medical Officers have equalled those of former years. 3103 persons have been vaccinated; while 2275 Medical Practitioners have been supplied with Vaccine Lymph, being an increase of 135 upon the numbers supplied in 1844. Packets of lymph have been sent, by post, to all parts of England, Scotland and Ireland, and often at times when the unexpected outbreak of Small Pox in a distant town or village rendered such a supply of inestimable value. Lymph has also been sent at various times to the following countries and British colonies:—Russia, the East Indies, Mauritius, North America, Demerara, The Azores, and the Channel Islands.

Your Medical Officers are extremely solicitous, by a careful selection of subjects, to preserve the lymph supplied by this Hospital in that state of purity and efficiency which they

know to be so essential to the ultimate security of the person vaccinated. The annually increasing demands upon this establishment for lymph afford to them a gratifying assurance that such care is fully appreciated by their professional brethren, both in town and country. Their labours in this department they will gladly continue, estimating lightly the additional trouble which it gives to them, in comparison with the benefits which they are thereby conferring on their professional brethren as well as upon society at large.

GEORGE GREGORY, M.D.

31, *Weymouth Street, Portland Place,*

*February 5, 1846.*

## DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

In aid of the funds of this Hospital are earnestly solicited, and will be thankfully received by Dr. GREGORY, 31, Weymouth Street, Physician to the Hospital; J. F. MARSON, Esq., Resident Surgeon, at the Hospital; J. CLIFT, Esq., 30, Bloomsbury Square, Secretary; and by Messrs. BARNETT and Co., 62, Lombard Street, Bankers to the Charity.

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N.B.—The payment of Ten Guineas constitutes a Life Subscriber.





Gaylord

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